

IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently amended) An electrical connector for establishing permanent electrical communication between components of an implantable medical device, comprising:

a molded housing of insulating material adapted to sealingly couple to a surface of an implantable medical device, said housing comprising a plurality of contact pad-receiving interlocking structures;

a stamped insert having each of a plurality of contact pads sealingly secured to a one of the plurality of contact pad-receiving interlocking structures of the molded housing and;

62 a manually removable tab attached to the stamped insert and removable therefrom by severing along a line of attachment; and

means formed in each of said plurality of contact pads for attaching an electrical wire to each contact pad; and

~~a side extension formed on each side of each of said contacts, each side extension being anchored within the molded plastic housing.~~

41. (Original) The connector of claim 40, wherein the insulating material comprises moldable plastic.

42. (Original) The connector of claim 40, wherein the insulating material comprises glass.

43. (Original) The connector of claim 40, wherein the electrical connector is a strip connector.

44. (Currently amended) The connector of claim 40, wherein the manually removable tab line of attachment comprises a scribed line disposed on a surface of the manually removable tab.

45. (New) An apparatus for permanently connecting electrically-conducting components of an implantable medical device, comprising:
at least one electrical connector comprising a tab section and a plurality of spaced-apart electrically conducting bonding pads; and
a non-conductive housing at least partially enclosing the plurality of spaced-apart electrically conducting bonding pads of the at least one electrical connector, wherein said non-conductive housing comprises a plurality of structure adapted to mechanically interlock and individually retain each of the electrically conducting bonding pads, and wherein the electrical connector is adapted to assist manual separation of the tab section from the electrical connector.
46. (New) An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the apparatus is capable of providing electrical connection between a plurality of electrical components.
47. (New) An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the at least one electrical connector comprises a series of electrical connectors attached by the tab section.
48. (New) An apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the series of electrical connectors are capable of being segmented into discrete components after the molding of the housing around the connectors and the removal of the tab sections.
49. (New) An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the apparatus is a component of a header assembly for an implantable medical device.
50. (New) An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the housing comprises an insulating material.
51. (New) An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the housing comprises moldable plastic.

52. (New) An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the housing comprises glass.
53. (New) An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the at least one electrical connector further comprises means for providing an electrical wire passageway from a first contact surface to a second contact surface for reducing physical contact between a pair of wires coupled to the bonding pads.
54. (New) An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the at least one electrical connector conducts electrical signals between a plurality of contact surfaces on each electrical connector, wherein the housing provides isolation between the various electrical connectors.
55. (New) An apparatus according to claim 54, wherein electrical wires proceeding from electrical components are welded to the plurality of electrical contacts.
56. (New) An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the at least one electrical connector comprise a metal.
57. (New) An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the at least one electrical connector comprise a base metal having at least one plating material.
58. (New) An apparatus according to claim 57, wherein the plating material is chosen from the group comprising gold, nickel, and their alloys.
59. (New) An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the implantable medical device comprises at least one of a pacemaker, cardioverter, defibrillator, neural stimulator, and a drug administering device.

60. (New) A feedthrough arrangement for establishing permanent electrical communication between an implantable medical device and at least one remote electrical component, comprising:
- a plurality of spaced-apart electrical contacts for conducting electrical signals communicated through a plurality of elongated conductors;
 - a molded housing comprising an electrical insulating material, the housing enclosing a portion of the plurality of electrical contacts, the housing being in sealing engagement therewith, the housing comprising a plurality of apertures, the apertures adapted for permanently receiving electrical wires for connection with the plurality of electrical contacts; and
- wherein the feedthrough arrangement is a component of an implantable medical device.
61. (New) A feedthrough arrangement according to claim 60, wherein the housing comprises moldable plastic.
62. (New) A feedthrough arrangement according to claim 60, wherein the housing comprises glass.
63. (New) A feedthrough arrangement according to claim 60, further comprising:
- the housing having an opening and the housing defining a first environment within the housing; and
- wherein the plurality of electrical contacts extend from the first environment within the housing to a second environment outside of the housing.
64. (New) A feedthrough arrangement according to claim 63, wherein the plurality of apertures extend from the first environment within the housing to a second environment outside of the housing.

65. (New) A feedthrough arrangement according to claim 63, wherein the plurality of electrical contacts conduct electrical signals between the first environment and the second environment and the housing provides isolation between the first and second environments.

66. (New) A feedthrough arrangement according to claim 65, wherein the plurality of electrical contacts are welded to the electrical wires that are disposed through the plurality of apertures.

67. (New) A feedthrough arrangement according to claim 60, wherein the plurality of electrical contacts comprise a metal.

68. (New) A feedthrough arrangement according to claim 60, wherein the plurality of electrical contacts comprise a base metal having at least one plating material.

69. (New) A feedthrough arrangement according to claim 68, wherein the plating material is chosen from the group comprising gold, nickel, and their alloys.

70. (New) A feedthrough arrangement according to claim 60, wherein the housing and the plurality of electrical contacts are a component of an implantable medical device.

71. (New) A feedthrough arrangement according to claim 70, wherein the implantable medical device comprises at least one of a pacemaker, cardioverter, defibrillator, neural stimulator, and a drug administering device.

72. (New) An electrical connector for permanently coupling a plurality of elongated electrical wires to implantable medical device circuitry, comprising:
- an insert member comprising a plurality of electrical contact pads and a connecting tab severably connected to the plurality of electrical contact pads; and
 - an electrically insulative housing, the housing comprising discrete interlocking structures in contact with and retaining each of the plurality of electrical contact pads;
- wherein each of the contact pads of the electrical connector is a component in an implantable medical device.
73. (New) An electrical connector according to claim 72, wherein the connecting tab is readily manually detachable from the plurality of electrical contacts.
74. (New) An electrical connector according to claim 72, wherein the plurality of electrical contact pads are capable of providing electrical connection between components of the implantable medical device.
75. (New) An electrical connector according to claim 72, wherein the electrically insulative housing comprises a moldable plastic material.
76. (New) An electrical connector according to claim 72, wherein the electrically insulative housing comprises a glass material.
77. (New) An electrical connector according to claim 72, wherein the electrically insulative housing comprises a plurality of apertures capable of communicating electrical wires through the apertures and to the plurality of electrical contacts.

Application Serial No. 10/045,340
Art Group Unit 2833

78. (New) A method for electrically permanently connecting components of an implantable medical device, comprising:
- providing an electrical connector comprising a plurality of spaced-apart electrical contact pads temporarily mechanically coupled to a manually accessible tab portion of said electrical connector;
 - manually separating the tab portion from the plurality of spaced-apart electrical contact pads so that said spaced-apart electrical contact pads are retained within mechanically interlocking structure of said electrical connector;
 - inserting the electrical connector within an implantable medical device; and
 - permanently establishing electrical communication between electric components of the implantable medical device through the electrical connector.
79. (New) A method according to claim 78, wherein the implantable medical device comprises at least one of a pacemaker, cardioverter, defibrillator, neural stimulator, and a drug administering device.